



#4

Any fee due as a result of this paper, not covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Acct. No.50-1290.

Attorney Docket No. SCEY 19.261(100809-00103)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Hiroshi OHTSU, et al.
Serial No.: 10/024,589
Filed: December 17, 2001
Title: OPTICAL DISK APPARATUS...
Examiner:
Art Unit:

September 4, 2003

Director of the U.S. Patent and
Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary rules 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of documents listed thereon. These documents contain information in which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

As this statement is being filed prior to issuance of a first Office Action, no fee is due.

Also attached is a copy of the European Office Action dated April 3, 2002 and a Notification of Reason for Refusal dated May 19, 2003 from the corresponding Japanese Patent Application. All of the documents listed in Form PTO-1449 appear in the European Office Action and the Notification of Reason of Refusal.

As some of these documents are written in a language other than English, English Language abstracts are annexed thereto explaining their relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3).

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 §CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

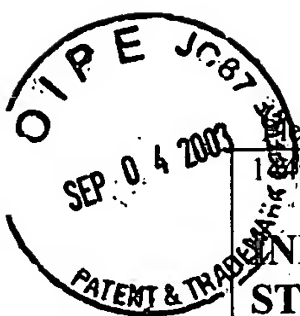
Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas J. Bean
Reg. No. 44,528

Katten Muchin Zavis Rosenman
575 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022-2585
(212) 940-8800
DOCKET NO.: SCEY 19.261(100809-00103)



Please type a plus sign (+) → +

Patent and Trademark Office U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

1849/PTO

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office

Application No. : 10/024,589

Filing Date : December 17, 2001

First Named Inventor: H. OHTSU

Group Art Unit :

Examiner Name :

Attorney Docket No. : SCEY 19.261

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document	Kind Code if known ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD- YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		6,115,334		TSUTSUI, et al.	09/05/2000	

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Office ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Country	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YY/Y	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		06-231477	JP	SONY CORP	08/19/1994	
		0 609 882	EP	SONY CORPORATION	08/10/1994	
		10-83543	JP	CLARION CO LTD	03/31/1998	
		2000-149282	JP	CLARION CO LTD	05/30/2000	
		1 043 717	EP	SONY CORPORATION	10/11/2000	
		0 840 295	EP	SONY CORPORATION	05/06/1998	

Other Prior Art-Non Patent Literature Documents

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), data, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, country, where published, source.	Applicant check her if English language translation attached
Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that Issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.1⁶ if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take .2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.